

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, and 11 allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. Claims 1 and 5 recite an injection mold for the molding of an elastomer material onto a tooth brush preform so as to form ribs having an elongate direction across the longitudinal direction of the brush and extending in height perpendicular from brush head. The injection mold is claimed as having a first split line defined between a first and second mold block, wherein the second mold block is comprised of two parts which define a second split line which intersects the parts of the mold cavity that form the elongate ribs and allows for the venting of trapped air during the injection of the elastomer. The prior art of record does not teach or suggest a secondary split line located in a second mold block which intersects rib forming cavities to allow for venting of air. Leversby (WO94/05183) teaches a molding process wherein elastomer is injection molded onto a tooth brush preform but does not teach a secondary split line or elongate ribs. Cann (USP 6514445) teaches a toothbrush mold having a secondary vent but said mold does not employ a second mold block which comprises two parts to define a secondary split line. Davies (WO04/041025) teaches elastomer ribs on a brush which can be formed via injection molding but does not teach or suggest venting for the ribs or a secondary split line. Brtiz (USP 4,909,972) and Baudin (USP 5,935,620) disclose molds having secondary split lines; however the mold of Britz is employed in a foaming process wherein a foamable mixture is poured into a mold and the mold of

Art Unit: 1791

Baudin is employed in the blow molding of hollow containers. Neither Britz nor Baudin disclose or suggest the placement of a secondary split line within an injection mold so as to intersect rib-forming or complex regions of a mold to allow for the venting of air during the introduction of a secondary material.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT DYE whose telephone number is (571)270-7059. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:00AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph S. Del Sole can be reached on (571)272-1130. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1791

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/RCD/

/Joseph S. Del Sole/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1791